

**PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY  
Wildfire Mitigation Plans Discovery 2022  
Data Response**

PG&E Data Request No.:	WilliamBAbrams_002-Q28		
PG&E File Name:	WMP-Discovery2022_DR_WilliamBAbrams_002-Q28		
Request Date:	April 13, 2022	Requester DR No.:	Email Transmittal – 2022WMP DR-02
Date Sent:	April 25, 2022	Requesting Party:	William B. Abrams
PG&E Witness:		Requester:	Will Abrams

**SUBJECT: PG&E WMP GAP ANALYSIS GIVEN KINCADE FIRE TESTIMONY AND  
SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

Expert Testimony: Mr. Gary Uboldi, Fire Captain Specialist Peace Officer with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection who has investigated over 400 wildfires across his 20+ year career

Expert Testimony: Mr. Joseph Hemstock, 38 Year as PG&E as Supervisory Inspector, Crew Foreman, Electrical Transmission Supervisor and other lead roles plus 10 years as PG&E consultant

Testimony Date: February 9, 2022 (See Attachment B: Pre-Trial Transcript)

**BACKGROUND TESTIMONY/EVIDENCE:**

Pg. 263 (lines 11-22)

“A. Oh, it would stop probably by sunup. Once the moisture, the moisture content in the air changed. Q. So it would be arcing throughout the night until weather conditions changed in the morning? A. Yeah. And I have guy there monitoring. Q. Someone would be there and they would stay there to make sure there's no issue? A. Well, yeah. If the arcing got to where it was a solid line of arcing, a solid all the way up, then if that happened he would have called me. And probably would have dumped the line and went up there and wipe the insulators or clean them or something.”

**QUESTION 28**

- a. Is this practice of waiting till there is a “solid line of arcing” a prudent wildfire mitigation practice during the nighttime when moisture content causes frequent arcing?
- b. If so, where is this referenced in the PG&E WMP?
- c. If not, how has PG&E corrected this flawed practice?

## ANSWER 28

The cited testimony describes the witness's experiences with the subject tower in "[19]93, '4, '95, somewhere in those three, four years." (Tr. 260:27-28.) There is no testimony or evidence that arcing due to contaminated insulators played any role in the cause of the Kincade Fire.

Under PG&E's inspection guidance, contained in the Electric Transmission Preventive Maintenance Manual (or "ETPM"), arcing is to be immediately addressed. See "WMP-Discovery2022\_DR\_WilliamBAbrams\_002-Q28Atch01.pdf" (providing that signs of "Arcing" require an "A tag" for immediate response). Though PG&E's inspection guidance is designed, in part, to aid inspectors in identifying issues that create wildfire ignition risk, specific details regarding guidance given to PG&E's inspectors is not typically included in the WMP, which primarily addresses wildfire mitigation work at the programmatic level. Section 7.3.4 of the 2022 WMP discusses PG&E's asset management and inspection work.